to start alternative employment to the educated unemployed youth belonging to SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the criteria being followed in this regard;

(c) whether Government have given approval to open only three commercial training centres in Gujarat State whereas the approximate population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State is about one and a half crore; and

(d) the steps being taken to open more such training centres in the Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d). The Government of Gujarat have reported that there is no scheme for starting commercial training centres specifically for educated unemployed youth belonging to the SCs/STs. However, there are several schemes of Government of India for providing vocational guidance and training to persons from the SCs/STs. These include, inter alia, a scheme of Vocational Training Centres in tribal areas for unemployed tribal youth introduced in 1992-93 under which Ministry of Welfare have approved assistance to the Gujarat Government for two, five and three Centres in 1992-93, 1994-95 and 1996-97 respectively, on the basis of proposals received from the State Government; and (b) a scheme of the Ministry of Labour under which a Coaching-cum-Guidance Centre has been set up at Surat, which provides educational and vocational guidance to educated unemployed SC/ST jobseekers, and also imparts training in shorthand and typing to them. These are not commercial centres.

Welfare Programmes

720. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued certain directions in July, 1996 to the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations to give special attention to the Welfare Programmes relating to the Welfare of Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government have started complying with the said directions;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have reviewed or proposed to review the welfare related work of the State Government/Union Territory Administration; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. But the Ministry has, however, issued letters to all chief Ministers for their considered views and comments on various programmes embodied in the Common Minimum Programme for the upliftment of the weaker and deprived sections.

(c) and (e). Does not arise.

Payment of Salary to Home Guard Employees

721. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Home Guard employees of Kanpur (U.P.) have not been paid the salaries/wages for last three months i.e. from July, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to make the payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Revamped Public Distribution System

722. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of coverage made in the implementation of Revamped Public Distribution System since it was launched State-wise;

(b) whether the objectives of the Programme have been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to effectively implement the programme throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The scheme of Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was launched by the Prime Minister w.e.f. 1.1.92 covering all the Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) blocks numbering 1775. A Statement showing the names of States and the number of blocks covered under RPDS is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) to (d). Statewise details of target for additional fair price shops, additional ration cards, elimination of bogus ration cards, creation of storage capacity, fair price shop to be covered under Doorstep delivery, number of fair price shop level Vigilance Committees in RPDS areas and the progress achieved as on 31.10.96 against each of these targets is given in the attached statements II, III, IV and V.

(e) The operational responsibility for implementing the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is that of the State Government and UT Administrations. Central Government holds meetings with States/UTs for reviewing the functioning of the PDS including RPDS,